

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1 to 3 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Support For Claim Amendment

In claim 1, support for the lower limit of Al being 0.40% Al may be found in the specification at Table 1-1, page 18 of the specification Ex. 1, Ex. 6 and Ex. 16, wherein 0.40% Al is the lowest Al content of the examples of the steel of the present invention.

§103

Claims 1 to 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,290,784 to Yasuhara et al.

This rejection, as applied to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

Patentability

U.S. Patent No. 6,290,784 ("Yasuhara")

The Office Action mailed November 20, 2009 stated at page 4, paragraph 9 that in order to distinguish the claims over Yasuhara, it is recommended to amend the Al range to recite a lower limit of 0.40%.

In response to this recommendation of the Office Action, independent claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment to recite a lower limit of 0.40% Al.

Support in the specification for a lower limit of Al being 0.40% has been previously discussed.


It is therefore submitted that amended independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 dependent thereon, are patentable over Yasuhara.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that in view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed and passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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